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# THE CONDOR

A Magazine of  
Western Ornithology

Published Bi-Monthly by the  
Cooper Ornithological Club

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Hollywood, California: Published June 7, 1913

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One Dollar and Fifty Cents per Year in the United States,  
Canada, Mexico and U.S. Colonies, payable in advance  
Thirty Cents the single copy.

One Dollar and Seventy-five Cents per Year in all other  
countries in the International Postal Union.

Claims for missing or imperfect numbers should be  
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Subscriptions and Exchanges should be sent to the  
Business Manager.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The July issue of THE CONDOR will contain the annual Club Roster. It is important that accuracy be secured in addresses and in spelling of names. To this end it is desirable that corrections in last year's Roster be reported as soon as possible to Mr. H. S. Swarth, Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California, who will have in charge the compilation of the new list.

Ridgway's new "Nomenclature of Colors," reviewed in another column, meets our most sanguine expectations. By its use color naming can be put upon an exact basis. Hereafter all descriptions involving color terms should accord with the permanent standards here set.

Messrs. J. Eugene Law and Allan Brooks spent the month of April on a collecting trip through Arizona. Five days were spent at Tucson, approximately three weeks in the Chiricahua Mountains at from five to nine thousand feet altitude, and a few days at Rodeo, New Mexico. About 300 bird-skins were obtained,—not a large number, but of that exquisite make which characterizes the output of these careful collectors. After spending a few days in west-central California Mr. Brooks left on May 10 for his home in British Columbia.

Mr. Harold C. Bryant, well known for his contributions to economic ornithology, has joined the staff of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. As Assistant Curator of Birds, he will, in addition to a share of the routine work, undertake in collaboration with Mr. Grinnell a study of the game birds of California with special reference to the problem of game conservation.

Our fellow Club member Mr. Harold H. Bailey is about to publish a book upon the "Breeding Birds of Virginia." There will be many illustrations, both figures and plates, and the text is designed to meet popular needs in a state which has hitherto lacked a local bird book.

It is of interest to note the expanding careers of individuals whose early predilections have been strongly in the line of bird study. A gratifying sequence of events presents itself in the case of Mr. William L. Finley. At first an ardent and successful student of life histories, subsequently identified with the Audubon movement, he has now become State Game Warden of Oregon. In this office Finley has been able to devise and put into practice methods of game conservation which are in the first rank for efficiency. He has secured the confidence of the state legislature, so that an almost ideal set of laws are now in force, by which Oregon's bird-life is rendered practically immune to many of the factors which have proven so fatal to the birds of many of the Eastern states.

## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS COLLECTED OR OBSERVED ON THE EXPEDITION OF THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA TO JASPER PARK, YELLOWHEAD PASS, AND MOUNT ROBSON REGION. BY J. H. RILEY. The Canadian Alpine Journal, Special Number; published by the Alpine Club of Canada; Banff, Alberta; 1912 (reviewer's copy received March 19, 1913); 8 vo., pp. 1-97, 20 pls., 1 map; price one dollar.

The expedition of which this report treats was undertaken conjointly by the Alpine Club of Canada and the Smithsonian Institution, N. Hollister and J. H. Riley being appointed from the United States National Museum to take part in the field work, and to report upon the resulting collections. The publication contains, besides the account of the birds (pp. 47-75), reports upon the mammals, by N. Hollister, and the plants, by Paul C. Standley.

Seventy-eight species of birds are listed. The two new subspecies named as a result of

the trip, *Melospiza m. inexpectata* and *Passerella i. altivagans*, were described in an earlier, preliminary paper, confined to descriptions of these races, the present report being a general account of the entire collection. The region visited, comprising adjoining portions of southern Alberta and British Columbia, includes parts of two very different faunal areas, and a study of the material collected is accordingly productive of many interesting and illuminating facts in regard to the manner of occurrence of certain of the species and sub-species encountered.

Among the critical comments the following seem to be of particular interest to Californian ornithologists: Breeding specimens of *Leucosticte t. tephrocotis* from this region are declared to be indistinguishable from birds from the California Sierras. *Zonotrichia leucophrys* and *Z. gambeli* are considered to be specifically distinct, as both were found breeding at the same locality, each retaining its distinctive characters, and no intergrades being found. *Junco hyemalis* and *Junco oreganus* are also believed to be distinct species, a conviction shared by the present reviewer, upon very similar evidence to that advanced by Mr. Riley. The Orange-crowned Warbler of the region is called *Vermivora celata celata*, Oberholser's *V. celata orestera* not being recognized; similarly in treating the Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), McGregor's *D. coronata hooveri* is ignored. Robins collected, declared to be intermediate in characters between *Planesticus m. migratorius* and *P. m. propinquus*, are considered as "belonging undoubtedly to the form described as *Planesticus migratorius caurinus* Grinnell", but the name *migratorius* is used to designate them.

Specimens of *Wilsonia pusilla pusilla* were taken at a British Columbian locality, and *W. p. pileolata* at a point in Alberta, farther east, a peculiarity of distribution not explained or commented upon by the author.

The report contains a quantity of valuable and authoritative data from a little known region, and is a correspondingly welcome addition to the ornithological literature of the west.—H. S. SWARTH.

COLOR STANDARDS AND COLOR NOMENCLATURE. By ROBERT RIDGWAY. pp. (1-4); i-iv; 1-44; frontispiece; pls. I-III. Washington, D. C., 1912 [January 16, 1913]. Published by the author. Price \$8.20.

The names of colors as well as names of animals and plants need to be exact and stable. No scientific worker whose investigations necessitate the use of color names can fail keenly to realize both the indefiniteness of most color designations, and the lack of a standard of color values that in exactness and

systematic arrangement adequately meets the requirements of modern science. Most of the existing color manuals are very unsatisfactory in practical use, either from want of proper designations or sufficient number of colors, from cumbersomeness, or poor arrangement. Furthermore there is no correlation between them. The best one is Mr. Ridgway's previous color book, "Nomenclature of Colors for Naturalists", which, however, has long been out of print.

The present work, confessedly not a technical treatise on color, aims definitely to standardize colors and color names, and to provide an adequate nomenclature, with samples of color sufficient for all practical descriptive and other related purposes. To this task Mr. Ridgway brings a lifetime of experience as artist and zoologist, and twenty-five years' special study of the subject. That he has succeeded is evident from even a cursory examination of this book.

The text treats first of the plan of the work, including the classification and preparation of the colors, of the scales adopted, and their designation and arrangement on the plates. Under "Color Names" the selection of the terms adopted is discussed, and the almost ridiculous chaos of present color nomenclature is clearly shown. Under "Color Terms" our author defines some of the most important terms used in the literature of color. Then follow the tables of percentages adopted as the standards in the present work; a list of the actual pigments used in the preparation of the fundamental pure colors; and an alphabetical list of the colors represented on the plates, with their proper symbols. All the names of colors in the author's original "Nomenclature of Colors for Naturalists" have, for the purpose of perpetuating these standards, been adopted in this new book, and a list of such of these as are not represented on the plates is given, together with the symbols by which they may be designated. A list of some of the most important books on the subject of color completes the text.

The fifty-three plates constitute, of course, by far the most important part of the volume. The color samples, each 25 by 12.5 millimeters, are mounted on a background of neutral gray, which for this purpose has many advantages over a white page. They have been prepared with great care by an improved process which produces an even matt surface, much more satisfactory for comparisons than a smooth or glossy color; and also insures absolute uniformity throughout the entire edition of the book.

The colors are arranged on each plate in three vertical rows, each representing a certain hue, together with three tints (mixtures with definite percentages of white) and three